

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-27 and add new claims 28-59.

Claims 1-27 (cancelled)

28. (New) A system for reading a data item, comprising:
means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item on a plurality of data storage devices;
means for receiving a read request for said data item;
means for initiating at least two read operation requests to at least two of said plurality of data storage devices in response to receiving said read request; and
means for identifying a first one of said at least two read operations requests as projecting to produce a fastest response time.
29. (New) The system of claim 28, further comprising the means for canceling a second one of said at least two read operation requests.
30. (New) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for ignoring a copy of said data item retrieved by a second one of said at least two read operation requests.
31. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for identifying a first one of said at least two read operation requests includes means for identifying said first one of said at least two read operation requests as having a first movement from one level of request queues to another.
32. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for identifying a first one of said at least two read operation requests includes means for identifying said first one of said at least two read operation requests as having a first retrieval of a copy of said data item from one of said plurality of data storage devices.

33. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item includes means for mirroring said data item from a first one of said plurality of data storage devices to a second one of said plurality of data storage devices.
34. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item includes means for maintaining said plurality of copies of said data item on a plurality of disk drives.
35. (New) A method of reading a data item from a database, comprising:
maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item from said database on a plurality of data storage devices;
receiving a read request for a predetermined number of copies of said data item;
initiating read operation requests to a selected number of the data storage devices in response to the read request, the selected number exceeding the predetermined number.
36. (New) The method of claim 35 in which the data item comprises a video or audio data item.
37. (New) The method of claim 36 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.
38. (New) The method of claim 36 in which the video or audio data item is associated with a video or audio stream.
39. (New) The method of claim 35, in which the act of maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item is performed at a granularity level smaller than an entire disk drive.
40. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising identifying a first set of said read operation requests that are projected to produce a fastest response time.
41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising canceling a second set of said read operation requests.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising ignoring a copy of said data item retrieved by a second set of said read operation requests.
43. (New) A system for reading a data item from a database, comprising:
means for maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item from said database on a plurality of data storage devices;
means for receiving a read request for a predetermined number of copies of said data item;
means for initiating read operation requests to a selected number of the data storage devices in response to the read request, the selected number exceeding the predetermined number.
44. (New) A computer program product that includes a medium readable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process of reading a data item from a database, the process comprising:
maintaining a plurality of copies of said data item from said database on a plurality of data storage devices;
receiving a read request for a predetermined number of copies of said data item;
initiating read operation requests to a selected number of the data storage devices in response to the read request, the selected number exceeding the predetermined number.
45. (New) A system for writing a data item to a storage system having a plurality of data storage devices, comprising:
means for receiving a write request for writing a predetermined number of copies of said data item to said plurality of data storage devices; and
means for initiating write operation requests to a selected number of said plurality of data storage devices in response to said write request, the selected number exceeding said predetermined number.
46. (New) The system of claim 45, further comprising means for identifying a first set of said write operation requests that are projected to produce a fastest response time.

47. (New) The system of claim 46, further comprising means for canceling a second set of said write operation requests.
48. (New) The system of claim 46, further comprising:
means for completing a second set of said write operation requests; and
means for deleting copies of said data item written by said second set of said write operation requests.
49. (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the means for identifying a first set of said write operation requests comprises means for identifying said first set of said write operation requests as being first to complete writing said data item to said selected number of said plurality of data storage devices.
50. (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the means for identifying a first set of said write operation requests comprises means for identifying said first set of said write operation requests as being first in moving from one level of request queues to another.
51. (New) A system of updating a data item in a storage system having a plurality of data storage devices, comprising:
means for receiving an update request for maintaining a predetermined number of copies of said data item in said plurality of data storage devices; and
means for initiating update operation requests to a selected number of said plurality of data storage devices in response to said update request, said selected number exceeding said predetermined number.
52. (New) The system of claim 51, further comprising means for identifying a first set of said update operation requests that are projected to produce a fastest response time.
53. (New) The system of claim 52, further comprising means for canceling a second set of said update operation requests.
54. (New) The system of claim 52, further comprising:
means for completing a second set of said update operation requests; and

means for deleting copies of said data item written by said second set of said update operation requests.

55. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the means for identifying a first set of said update operation requests comprises means for identifying said first set of said update operation requests as being first to update said data item to said selected number of said plurality of data storage devices.

56. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the means for identifying a first set of said update operation requests comprises means for identifying said first set of said update operation requests as being first in moving from one level of request queues to another.

57. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the means for initiating update operation requests comprises means for initiating at least one of said update operation requests for updating an existing copy of said data item on one of said plurality of data storage devices.

58. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the means for initiating update operation requests comprises:

means for writing copies of said data item to new sections of said plurality of data storage devices; and

means for reconfiguring a plurality of pointers to point to said new sections of said plurality of data storage devices.

59. (New) The system of claim 58, further comprising means for deleting copies of said data item in sections of said plurality of data storage devices that are no longer pointed to by said plurality of pointers.